

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL

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General Summary of News.

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EUROPE.

England.—The importance which naturally, and we think justly, attaches itself to all that transpires in our native land, is such as to induce us to regret every temporary interruption of the current of our thoughts, when bent thitherward with the force and strength that peculiarly belongs to the remembrance of home.

The calls upon our attention are, however, as varied as they are incessant; and tho' England is never forgotten, we are frequently compelled, and always against our inclination, to turn from the interesting events passing on her theatre, to those that agitate the general feelings of Indian society more deeply, because they come nearer to their own local interests and immediate personal concerns.

From these we claim, to-day, a momentary relief; and in presenting to our readers the articles of European Intelligence, domestic and foreign, which have been in our possession for several days, there is one very prominent subject—the Parliamentary Debate on the motion for Papers relative to the Cession of Parga to the Turks,—which will be read with feelings of the deepest interest by every Englishman in India, who has learnt to detest the slavery to which all Mahomedan rule reduces its subjects, and to venerate that superior liberty which the enlightened principles of British sway gives to all who are transferred to its dominion.

To us, who have had occasion to know so intimately and so thoroughly the iron despotism of the Turkish yoke;—who have witnessed the ardent love of liberty, the panting after emancipation, which characterises the modern Greek, retaining all the fire, the genius, and the enthusiasm of his ancestors, though degraded by the triple chain of ignorance, slavery, and superstition;—who have heard from the bands of the Peloponessus, and the Corsairs of the *Ægean Sea*, the bursting songs of Freedom, the heart bounding with ardour, the eye swelling with a mixture of sorrow and shame, and the full lip quivering with revenge;—to us, we repeat, who have beheld all this, which minds of ordinary capacity may understand and feel, but which no pen but that of Byron has yet faithfully described;—the subject possesses uncommon interest. But although local associations necessarily throw a charm over certain recollections, whether they are painful or pleasurable, there is yet, in the fate of this unhappy people, something that powerfully arrests the sympathy of all who have a tincture of classic feeling, as attaching importance to them from the high nobility of their descent, or who have a sigh left for expiring liberty, as regarding them only in the light of subjects to the most odious despotism that stains the page of modern annals.

We have seen, in a very recent instance, the powerful interest that was felt throughout England, in what was considered the first dawn of Freedom, or rather the point from which that dawn might one day rise to illumine the horizon of Turkish darkness. We allude to the establishment of a Press in the Turkish dominions. Under the promising reign of Selim, at Constantinople, when European tactics in the army, ship-building, cannon-founding, &c. was introduced, through great and subsequently successful opposition, a printing establishment was also set on foot at this capital. The objection to it was, however, so deep-rooted and so persevering, that though we believe it still exists, we fear that no benefit is likely, for a long period at least, to result from its use.

In the mountains of Syria, there had been a Press of a much earlier date, but this was confined to the possession of Christians, who, secure in their almost inaccessible fastnesses, have always set the Turkish government in some degree at defiance, and under the denomination of Druzes, Ansarians, Maronites, &c. have preserved a larger portion of freedom than it has been permitted to any other class of the Grand Signor's subjects to enjoy, which they owed principally to the strength of their local position. This was in the Convent of *Mar Hanna*, or St. John's, where the celebrated traveller, Volney, remained for some months during his stay in Syria, to study Arabic; where a number of books had been printed from types cut by the Monk who founded it, of whose labours he has given a long history, in his *Syrian Travels*; and where Arabic books, in the Arabic character, are still printed, and circulated among the Christians of the mountains.

There is another Press, which completes the number, we believe, of all those to be found in any portion of the Turkish dominions; and this is of a very recent establishment, not more than ten years ago. It is at a Maronite Convent near the summit of Lebanon, and close to the celebrated *Jedars* of Solomon, dedicated to St. Anthony, *Deer el Mar Antonios el Khezehyah*. Of this we speak from personal observation, having had occasion to visit it in a tour through the mountains of Lebanon, and to have examined the whole establishment minutely.* It is true that their labours were

then confined to the printing of religious books, in the Arabic language and in Syriac character, which combination is called *Karshuni*; but when the connection between religious and civil liberty is traced, as exemplified in the history of our own country, we cannot doubt for a moment that the very existence of a Press, even if confined in the first instance to religious works only, must, by disseminating its labours through such an empire as that of Turkey, induce a habit of thinking, reasoning, and acting, which cannot fail to be productive of the highest advantages.

We find, accordingly, that when the Archbishop of Jerusalem was recently in England, and his attendance at the gallery of the House of Commons in oriental costume was a prominent article of intelligence in all the London Papers, the circumstance which excited the greatest attention, and inspired almost universal sympathy, was that of his having visited England (as we understood) chiefly for the purpose of adding to his printing establishments at the Convents in Mount Lebanon, and diffusing the light of religious, civil, and moral knowledge, through the benighted regions in which every useful and amiable faculty of the human mind has long lain dormant. There was a very full and highly respectable Meeting, if we remember rightly, held in London in March last, for the purpose of giving effect to this desirable undertaking; and the result was sufficient to shew, that there is no portion of the globe, in which Liberty is attempted to be introduced, that does not find warm and steady patrons in England; and that there is no portion of our earth, which on the other hand is about to be delivered over from Freedom to Slavery, that does not engage in its cause, the eloquence of the British Senate, and the sympathies of all who feel warmly and think independently among mankind.

It is thus, in the case of the Syrian Archbishop's appeal to British aid for establishing the Press in Syria;—it is thus also in the case of the Cession of Parga to the Turks, which we were about to introduce at once to the notice of our readers, without contemplating the digression into which we have been led. If our recollections and our feelings have carried us beyond the immediate line of our duty in this particular, they will the more readily pardon us, when they consider that it is impossible to be ardently in love with Liberty, without interpreting every incident of life, every variety of opinion, and every shade of sentiment, as to its bearing on that point, in which, if civilly and religiously considered, all human good is centred; and that, if to the enamoured lover, "trifles light as air," are constantly beheld as "confirmations strong;" so to the patriot and the philanthropist, every thing which can in the slightest degree affect the reputation of his country so as to stain the high and honored character he wishes her to enjoy, or which can tend to make aspiring bands of freemen retrograde their steps backwards again towards slavery (and the Cession of Parga would effect both) can neither be viewed with indifference, nor passed by without a comment.

We have trespassed, however, too long on the patience of our readers, by these preliminary observations; and now proceed to give the abstract of the short Debate that arose in the House of Commons, on the 26th of May, on a motion for the production of papers, as reported in the *Morning Herald* of the 27th of May, the latest English Paper in the settlement:—

Sir C. MONCK rose to move for certain papers relating to the military occupation of Parga, in the year 1814. The Hon. Member commenced by expatiating on the hard fate of that brave but unfortunate community, whose case he was then proceeding to lay before the House. The inhabitants of Parga, he said, were threatened with a deprivation of all those privileges which are dear to civilized men; their social rights were to be torn from them, or they were to submit to the harsh terms of a barbarous enemy by the sacrifice of the religion of their fathers; their dreadful doom was to become the most degraded of slaves, in the land whose freedom they had vindicated with their blood, or to expatriate themselves with the miserable boon of a compulsory compensation; they were to abandon their native country to the enemies of all civilized existence, and to give to the profanation of men foreign and false to all their opinions, the churches, in which they had learned the religion of their ancestors. The Honourable Member also stated, that they had been faithful to the British cause in times of uncommon peril; and expressed a hope, that a great and enlightened nation would not forget, in the day of its prosperity, the claims of those whose fidelity had bound them to her in affliction. He declared, that his intention in moving for the papers was not to inculcate the Noble Lord opposite (Lord Castlereagh); but if possible to save the cession of the town, by shewing them what conditions the people of Parga had offered to the Commander of the British forces for the military

* There are now in the possession of the Editor of this Journal, some sheets of Syriac printing, which he was permitted to take from this press, and which were brought by him to India for transmission to England, a portion having been sent home, and the rest still remaining with him.

† Since writing the above, we have found a moment to turn back to a file of London Papers, and find in the *Courier* of the 22d March 1819, a Report of the Proceedings of this Meeting, which is given in the form of an Advertisement, and which we here spoke of from recollection only; but it appearing to be of sufficient interest to be given at length, we have directed its insertion in another column, as well as the Proceedings of a subsequent Meeting held on the 13th of April, from the *London Times* of the following day.

occupation of their city. Under what impression their request had been acceded to, and by what motives the Governor of the Ionian Islands had been directed in the conduct he had adopted regarding them. From these considerations he had no doubt, that it would appear that the Noble Lord had been in error regarding that people, and their connection with us, and did not take into his contemplation, the dreadful evils which in the event must fall upon them by the cession intended.

The Hon. Member then took an historical view of the state of ancient Greece, and descanted on the progress which the Arts had made there, and the great advantages which resulted from them, with regard to the civilization of the rest of Europe. He next adverted to the irruption of the Saracens into Europe, and represented the war which they made not as one originating in political differences, but as one for the extermination of the Christian religion, in order to plant the Crescent upon the ruins of the Cross. The people of the Ionian Islands had always, he said, evinced a decided determination to oppose the Turkish Government, and could never be brought to a passive acquiescence in the Ottoman power. (*Hear, hear!*) He then took a geographical view of the Albanian provinces, with the adjacent islands; and adverted to the subjugation of the country by the French army under Buonaparte. At that period four of the principal towns had been taken, and erected into what was termed the Ionian Republic. In consequence of this aggression the Porte made war on France, while the Pasha of Albania desired and obtained permission to attack the septinsular republic. He next proceeded to comment on the tyranny exercised by Ali Pasha over the people of Parga, and read a paper containing their remonstrance against his lawless aggression. From this it appeared, that they were willing to endure any hardships, however severe, rather than surrender to the Turks, but that they had no objection to admit a Russian garrison within their fortress, and by them it was accordingly occupied.—Having thus submitted to the power of the Pasha, under the expected protection of the Russians, they were soon made to feel all the rigour of his relentless cruelty. Their Churches were converted into Mosques, their houses and lands were given to Mahomedans while the unfortunate people themselves were obliged to remove to distant parts of the country.

After some other observations to this effect, he took occasion to advert to the policy which Buonaparte had adopted towards the Ionian Islands, and said that he had given instructions to their French Generals in that quarter to keep on good terms with the Pasha of Albania. In consequence of these instructions the Pargites who had now come under the dominion of the French, became alarmed lest it might be determined to give them up again to their old masters who had ruled them with such cruelty; but they were reassured by the French General who told them he had no such intention; and as an earnest of his sincerity, said, that he sent them a French flag and a garrison: for their little fortress.

The Hon. Member now entered into a detailed account of the combined operations of Admiral Collingwood and Sir John Stewart in the Mediterranean, in the years 1809 and 1810, which terminated in the expulsion of the French from all the Ionian Islands except Corfu, the most important of the whole for its extent and resources. The Septinsular Republic being thus re-established under British protection, it followed that Parga which was united to its destiny by proximity of distance as well as by the habits and religion of the people ought to be included in that protection. If Russia had failed to afford protection to the Pargites, if France had failed to afford it, where was their resource left but in the power of Great Britain, the freest and most generous nation in the world. (*Hear, hear!*) It was natural to suppose, that they should look for succour and protection from England when they saw a distinguished British Chief in the Mediterranean with a powerful fleet, and when they saw that Mr. Foresti, a British Envoy had been deputed to the Ionian Islands. It was no wonder when they beheld the galling yoke of the Turks, on the one side, and the prospect of defence on the other, that they should turn with hope and confidence to the latter, and expect from the public spirit of England, what that spirit was never yet known to deny when it was possible to afford it, protection from the power, the vengeance of remorseless tyranny. (*Hear, hear!*) But nothing could be done to relieve Parga, till Corfu was reduced; for the garrison of that place could discomfit any endeavours that might be made for that purpose.—The place was therefore left open to the attack of the Pasha, who in the year 1814, when the French garrison was too weak to send in any assistance, invested it with an army of twenty thousand men. But the Pargites, though they failed in obtaining succour, were yet too brave to yield without a struggle to their implacable foes, and collecting their little band within the fortress, they absolutely succeeded in repelling a force so entirely disproportioned to their own.

Was this a people, he would ask, to be neglected and despised, were men so determined in the vindication of freedom, to be consigned to the bonds of slavery? No; let not so foul a stigma rest on the character of Britain, while possessing the power to prevent it. But the Pasha retired, repelled, but not routed. His force was too powerful to be eventually overcome; and having erected a mausoleum to the memory of his nephew who had fallen in the recent attack, he vowed, that the blood of the people of Parga should be the expiation of a deed which patriotism would consecrate. This mausoleum was the altar on which he promised to sacrifice his victims, and light the torch of vengeance to the manes of his nephew. (*Hear, hear!*) He was not, however, permitted to indulge his wrath, for the people of Parga sent a deputation to General Campbell, claiming to be admitted to the protection of Britain, in the same manner as the Ionian Islands, and desiring to follow the destiny of those islands, when it might be ultimately fixed. This request, had been acceded to, and they agreed on their part to assist in expelling the French from Corfu.

Here the Hon. Member, entered into a minute account of the circumstances relating to that event; and said, that Capt. Hawke, who then commanded a squadron in the Mediterranean, had not agreed to the proposals made to him for attacking the Republic; a deputation had been sent to him of the principal inhabitants in proof of their sincerity in the cause. It appeared, that a British colour was then conveyed into the town, by means of an old woman, while there was a simultaneous rising of the inhabitants against the garrison, which the latter had not the power to resist. He then observed, that he now chiefly desired to know, what was the policy adopted towards Parga since the French had been finally expelled; and it was to get information on this point, that he wished for the production of the necessary papers upon this subject; to prove that Parga was considered by General Campbell as an appendage to the Ionian Islands, he had only to read a few extracts from a written statement by that officer.

The Honourable Member here read certain extracts to that effect. The great mass of the inhabitants were, he contended, hostile to the Turkish sway, and prepared to vindicate their liberties at any price, rather than submit to it. Surely the Noble Lord opposite could not be aware of this, else he would not have consented to cede their rights, and their persons, as well as their little territory, to a government so abhorred. But it was not yet too late to save this little country, the last spot in that region in which the cross had not been surmounted by the crescent. Having gone through the narrative, in which he had endeavoured to be as clear as he could, he would proceed to the discussion of the difference between him and the Noble Lord, as to the proper construction of the treaty of 1815. This was a treaty entered into separately by Great Britain and the three other powers concerned; and as all of these were the same, it was of no consequence which he should make the subject of comment. In the narrative he had brought the history of Parga down to the time when it was under British authority. Quitting that period for a moment, he would refer to the Treaty between the Russian Government and the Ottoman Porte, entered into in 1800. By that Treaty the Islands opposite to the Coast of Morea were to form the Free, Independent, and United Ionian Islands. Now not only were these islands specified, but also their respective dependencies; and this being the case, Parga, as forming a dependency, must necessarily be included. Therefore, it would appear undeniable, that Parga was to become the subject of every condition in that Treaty as much as any of the other towns and dependencies. If, then, the Treaty of 1815 took that of 1800 for its basis was it not a consequence, that all the places to which they respectively referred must be one and the same. (*Hear.*) By that Treaty it was manifest that the four towns of which Parga was one, were to be protected in their rights, civil and religious. Were they so protected? (*Hear.*) Was Bonitza so protected, or Bucentro? No; these towns were now sunk in Turkish bondage. They were degraded and barbarized, and instead of exhibiting what they once did, a free and flourishing people, they were examples of debasing sloth, and misery. (*Hear.*) Yes, these countries where the Cross of Christ had kept its station so long, were thus reduced to the most disgraceful of all conditions beneath Mahomedan tyranny.

He disclaimed any intention to embarrass his Majesty's Ministers by bringing this question before Parliament. He felt but one motive, and that was to save the town. This was the great, the sole object he had in view. The people of Parga cried out for protection—they pointed to Bonitza, to Bucentro, and trembling, lest they should be involved in a similar fate, they strove for the restoration of their former condition. The circumstances of this unhappy people reminded him strongly of what the most beautiful of all Poets has put into the mouth of *Æneas*, when that hero, during the sacking of Troy, sees the city blazing about him—the obstinate patriotism of his aged father—the affliction of his wife *Creusa*, and of his child *Ascanius*, when he beholds the desolation of his beloved home, and cries out:—

*Hoc erat, alma parens, quod me per tela, per ignes
Eripitis, ut mediis hostem in penetralibus, atque
Ascanium, patremque meum, juxtaque cretsum.
Alterum in alterius nactatus sanguine, Cerman?
Arma, viri, ferte arma: vocat lux ultima victos.
Reddite me Danais; sinite instaurata revisam
Proelia. Nimquam omnes hodie moriemur multi.*

The Hon. Member moved, that an humble address be presented to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, praying, that he would direct to be laid before the House copies of Instructions to General Campbell, or to any other British Officer, respecting the assistance to be given to the inhabitants of the town of Parga, against the French or the Turks in 1814; with a variety of other papers, containing the requisitions of the inhabitants to any British Commander; copies of instructions to any Commander in Chief having the occupation of Parga since 1814; and copies of instructions to Gen. Campbell since that period, or to any other person in authority there.

Mr. MAXWELL seconded the motion. He was willing to give the Noble Lord every credit for a disposition to regenerate the people of that part of the world, by placing there, those individuals, whose characters promised the most success in such an improvement. With regard to the town of Parga, it had been for three or four centuries, of all the dependencies of Greece, the spot where alone the feeling of liberty retained its pristine force, and there was no one who turned his eyes upon this remnant of ancient Greece, and contemplated her with interest, but must have done so with a hope that she was preserved to become the example of regeneration to the neighbouring states. It was our duty, therefore, as the advocates of liberty and justice, to defend this spot of ground, and be trusted that no false policy would interpose and be the means of delivering it over to degradation. (*Hear, hear!*)

Lord CASTLEREAGH said he was willing to do justice to the motives of the two Hon. Members who spoke last. He partook of that interest which pervaded the House very naturally, for the preservation of the town of Parga, and thought that the limited extent of the object only called for a more rigid adherence to the principles of justice in every arrangement upon it. From the manner in which the motion was made, he could feel no objection to it, confined as it was to the matter of past treaties and circumstances which had preceded them. (*Hear, hear!*) Had the Hon. Member called for the production of papers detailing the proceedings of any pending negotiation, and thereby interfered with those arrangements which exclusively belonged to the Executive Government, in that case he would have thought it his duty to oppose the motion. When the Hon. Member gave him (Lord Castlereagh) credit for a disposition to protect the people of Parga, he did him no more than justice. (*Hear, hear!*) But he thought it somewhat strange, that a treaty, which had been concluded so far back as three years should now become the subject of discussion. Up to this moment he never heard that the British Government had at any time been pledged to preserve Parga in its own hands to the exclusion of the Ottoman Power, or that there was any foundation whatever for the people of Parga to require the protection of Great Britain in consequence of its honour or good faith being pledged to that extent. During all the discussion that took place at Vienna and at Paris, he thought that it was an open question to all the Allied Powers what would be the best means of settling the condition of Parga. He would deny that the people of that town had strong claims on this country, inasmuch as Great Britain had delivered them from the conqueror of that day, who had been at the head of France. But these claims indisputably could not extend beyond the good offices of Great Britain towards settling them in a state of prosperity. Would not the British Government indeed have been highly responsible to Parliament if they had pledged the faith of Great Britain to the protection of a territory so remote, and where the justification of such a measure would have been so extremely doubtful. His Lordship denied, that there had been any convention on foot at any time, referring even remotely to the question of possession. The discussions which took place at Constantinople, were confined entirely as to the circumstances under which the military evacuation should take place. He thought it right to state, that in any arrangement discussed in 1815, the treaty of 1800 was always recognised as being a complete operation; and if the Hon. Member had looked at the last article in the last treaty, he would have seen that it was quite improbable the European Power should have invited the Ottoman Porte to agree to any treaty which went to annul the former one. It would also be seen by a reference to the 8th article of that treaty, that these four towns shall be on the same footing as the rest of its dependencies with the Ottoman Porte, and that though Great Britain might properly interfere for the protection of the people of Parga, still she could not go the extent of withholding that town from the Porte, as if she had, she might be very justly suspected of entertaining other motives than those of humanity for that people. The object of our Government then, was to afford all the facility that British interposition could give to such inhabitants, who from a dislike of the Russian Government, wished to retire from any part of the Ionian territory, and procure for such, an indemnity for all the losses they may have sustained by this migration. Such then, was the relation between the Government of Great Britain and Parga; the latter, entitled to all the good offices of the former, and the former, however willing she might be, not at liberty to go beyond good offices in her favour.

Mr. SCARLETT was glad of an opportunity to express his sentiments upon the circumstances of the surrender of Parga. He thought it the most gratuitous, the most impolitic and disgraceful transaction that our history afforded. He hoped, that when the question would come properly under consideration, the attention of the House and the public, would be given to it in the fullest manner (*Hear, hear!*) Unless some new light was thrown upon the affair, unless some document was produced, which he had not as yet heard any thing about, capable of altering the aspect of it altogether, he would contend, that there was not a pretence or the shadow of a pretence, for ceding the town; indeed he doubted very much if it should be ceded at all. If the treaty of 1800 was to be the basis of any new treaty, let it be recognized all through. (*Hear, hear!*) But according to all the information hitherto had upon the subject, the surrender was made absolute to the Porte. There was no one of common feeling, that must not lament the sad reverse which Parga had undergone. If the cession was to be made ultimately, in fact, it would be a cession of a barren waste, instead of a flourishing free town. Her rights suspended, her inhabitants expatriated and sent to places, where, perhaps, they would find very little of that liberty which they formerly enjoyed at home—and all this was the result of British protection. (*Hear, hear!*)

Sir J. MACKINTOSH, with much animation, expressed his satisfaction at the assent which had been given by the Noble Lord to the present motion, as he thought, that the House might now consider that assent as an assurance that the progress was impeded, if not finally put an end to, of one of the most atrociously perfidious acts, that ever disgraced any age or country. (*Hear, hear!*) He would so characterize it, and he would hope that the Honourable Gentleman (Mr. Goulburne) who just favoured him with a cheer, would remove the disgusting impression from him. There was no reason in existence to justify this act. But he would ask, in what school of ethics, or of the laws of nations, did the Minister learn, that the treaty of 1800 should be observed in the treaty of 1815. The former was broken by military revolutions; above all, it was broken by the perfidy of the Turks. (*Hear, hear!*)—Nothing could, or will, excuse the abominable act of giving up a free people to an abandoned despot. He was prepared to deny, that Parga was ceded to the Turks by the treaty of 1800; but as to

the cession of 1815, he defied any man to produce, in any single writer of any country, an example of the kind. But if the treaty of 1815 was made in conformity to that of 1800, why not conform to it?—(*Hear, hear!*) Would the Noble Lord, indeed, revise a part of that treaty in favour of a Mahomedan tyrant, and annul that part in favour of a Christian people? (*Cheers!*) When the question would come before the House, he should be prepared to contend, that there was vested in the House of Commons the power to save this unhappy town from the most barbarous of Mussulman barbarians.

Mr. GOULBURN said, that he would have no hesitation to answer the call of the Learned Gentleman, to explain the motive of his cheer; at the same time, he hoped he would be able to abstain from participating in his warmth. Considering the objects which the Learned Gentleman was advocating, namely, the right of justice, and of protection, he (Mr. G.) must confess, that he was astonished at the manner in which he afforded his support. The Learned Gentleman had emphatically called that affair a perfidious and an atrocious one, and yet, in the same sentence, confessed that he did not know the facts of it. He should content himself with having expressed thus much as to the course pursued by the Learned Gentleman, and would reserve himself for the time when the papers would come before the House, when the discussion would properly take place.

The following are the articles of general intelligence which the last London Papers of May contain.

London, May 27.—Yesterday being settling day, an unusual sensation was manifested early in the morning. Consols opened at 65½ for the account, and it was thought would go lower; but several persons who had hitherto been sellers, suddenly began buying in to a large amount, which caused an almost instantaneous rise to 67½; they afterwards rose to 68, and left off at 67½ for money, and 67½ for the July account. Bank Stock began at 210, and left off at 214. Two defaulters were declared towards noon; one to a very considerable amount.

King's Theatre.—We mentioned yesterday, the revival of the opera of *Il Flauto Magico* at this theatre on Tuesday evening, and now proceed to give an account of the performance. Mozart's fame perhaps, among his countrymen, rests more exclusively on this opera, than on any other of his productions; it was originally composed to German words, and so extensive has been its career of popularity, that no town where the language was understood, and that could boast the luxury of a theatre, but has sent crowded and delighted audiences to witness the repeated performances of *The Magic Flute*. There was no German, possessing the least knowledge of music, that did not retain all its beautiful airs in his memory. The difficulty of translating an opera, and of applying another language to the same music, where all the niceties of accent are to be preserved, is very great; it was early overcome, however, in the instance of *The Magic Flute*, and its translation into Italian, which in music ranks as a universal language, diffused it over the rest of Europe. In this country, as an entire production, it is, even now very imperfectly known. In the year 1811, an attempt was made to bring it forward at this theatre, but the piece itself was so little understood, was so economically got up, and so wretchedly performed, that after languishing a few nights, it was laid aside, and the failure, for a long period, discouraged any subsequent attempt. The great objection that has been made to the opera, is the obscurity of the fable, which is involved in so much mystery, that the true meaning, it is said, has never yet been discovered. We do not consider this a point of great importance; the greater part of the incidents and situations are easily comprehended; and perhaps even the difficulty itself from its novel nature forms an agreeable exercise to the understanding.

The music of *Il Flauto Magico*, compared with *Figaro* and *Don Giovanni*, and viewed in the mass, must be pronounced in a degree inferior to those wonderful productions. We may even point out airs in it, the first song of *Papageno*, and the only one given to *Monostatos*, as in a degree light and trivial; but it is well known that Mozart, when he composed the opera, consented to a stipulation, that several of the airs at least should be perfectly easy, and adapted to the popular taste. He made himself ample amends, by the power and beauty he threw into the other parts of the composition. The overture, all musicians allow, is the finest in the world; the two songs assigned to the *Queen of Night* are as original in style as they are difficult in the execution; the majestic strains and invocations of *Sarastro* breathe at once, benevolence and devotion; the complaints of *Pamina*, the manly resignation of *Tamino*, live in musical expression. The marches and chorusses of the latter, particularly the invocation to Isis and Osiris, are full of dignity and pathos. Even the lighter pieces, belonging to the part of *Papageno*, shine out every moment with richness and beauty: among these will be discovered many favourites, considered English, such as, *The Manly Heart*, and *Away with Melancholy*. The trios, quartets, and quintets are all admirable: of the first, that of *Gia fan ritorno*, song by the genii on their descent, is of unrivalled delicacy. On the whole, such is the grandeur, variety, and beauty of the composition, that no ear, at all accessible to musical sounds, but must find in it almost uninterrupted gratification. The characters were all cast in the best manner: Garcia was the *Tamino*, and in excellent voice: the songs were given in his usual masterly manner, but in the scene before the gate of the Temple of Wisdom, which is very long, and consists principally of accompanied recitative, he surpassed himself. We have seldom heard a more noble and commanding effect produced by the human voice. Madame Bellocchi represented *Pamina*, and Signora Corri the *Queen of Night*: the two bravuras of the latter were very neatly and correctly executed, and if Madame Bellocchi would give a little more feeling to the song of *Ah! to so*, her hearers would have nothing to wish

for. Signor Begrea succeeded perfectly in *Monodatos*; and Signor Angriani, in *Sarastro*, found a style of composition perfectly suited to him, and succeeded to perfection. The voice of Signor Romero was very effective in the *Priest*, and Signor Ambrogetti played and sang *Papageno* with so much spirit and animation, that he deserves our best praise: he was literally the life of the piece, and we do not think a better *Papageno* could be found. The chorusses are far from perfect. The machinery, as usual, was bad: that by which the descent of the genii was managed, was on a scale truly contemptible; but the scenery and decorations were superb. Altogether, the opera is got up in very good style, and must prove attractive.

Hanover, May 17.—Since the abolition of torture has been unanimously resolved upon by the Assembly of the States, the Committee has prepared the introduction of the Trial by Jury and the publicity of Judicial Proceedings in Criminal Cases.

Bremen, May 19.—The report of a misunderstanding between Sweden and some other Northern Power, are positively contradicted by many letters from Stockholm: they know nothing in that Kingdom of any warlike preparations and even the general measures of defence, the plan of which was laid many years ago, are prosecuted so slowly, that it will take several years more to complete them.

Paris, May 21, 1810.—The coronation of his Majesty is at length definitively fixed, for the third time, to take place on the 25th of August next. As the holy oil, the *Sainte Ampoule*, which, according to tradition, is absolutely essential to the ceremony, was destroyed during the Revolution, a new miracle will be necessary for its production, and the Missionaries fancy they have so well prepared the credulity of the French nation, that they may hazard one without danger.

Unfortunately the secret has escaped too soon. One of those holy men is now instructing a carrier pigeon to light on the shoulder of an effigy dressed in the grand costume of the Archbishop of Rheims. It already performs its task tolerably well, but by mistake sometimes lights on that of its Master: however, by the 25th of August there is no doubt of its being quite perfect in its part, and that it will light with a bottle of the holy oil tied round its neck, on the Archbishop at the proper moment, unless any indiscretion in prophesying the event, make the miracle-worker, change his intention.

We are far from believing the Archbishop of Rheims to be capable of lending a sanction to such an impious cheat: but it is not the less true that there is a Priest weak enough to believe it might pass, and wicked enough to attempt it. This exposure will, it is hoped, prevent its being carried further.

The Ultras are proud of their triumph: let them enjoy it. The '*jamais*' (never) of M. Deserre will only extend to the 25th of August. M. Decazes, to whose noble patriotism the French nation is indebted for the exercise of so many of its liberties, wished the law by which the parties were banished to be revoked. His Majesty, on the contrary, wished the measure to emanate from himself, as the fountain of mercy; hence M. Deserre, when he exclaimed the terrible *jamais*, but little knew the bounty of his Royal Master's heart, which originally yielded to the measure with pain, and to gratify a faction, which he thought his friends, but who have proved themselves the bitterest enemies of their King and the Nation! Besides, what is meant by Regicide?

The proscription would apply to the whole nation, in some degree; but if the merit of the question were fairly entered into, it would be seen, that the principal Regicides were those who made Louis XVI seek foreign aid, to destroy that Constitution which he had granted the nation. Strictly speaking, then, the regicides lived in England from 1791 to 1814. They have already sent one Monarch to the scaffold, and they would not hesitate to repeat the tragedy for the bare chance, that a successor might regard them as the Nation, and the rest as mere beasts of burthen!

It is remarkable that the Ultras, who proclaim themselves to be the most numerous party, in the hope of finding dupes disposed to believe them, have not even ventured to try the public opinion by counter-petitions. They are far, however, from confessing themselves beaten on this ground. They still dream of secret intelligence. Their leaders united a few days ago with the Deputies of the centre, to plan a new *coup-de-main* for Saturday; and to endeavour to obtain at least, that the petitions should be referred to the Minister of the Interior, under the pretence of the necessity of an investigation. It is not that they are in the slightest degree ignorant of the conviction so solemnly pronounced by Count de Cazes in favour of the law, but it is a trick on their part to compromise him in the opinion of certain imbecile people, with whom the most absurd accusations or the most clumsy insinuations hold the place of proof—a sort of people whose whole talent lies in suspicion. The tone of certain court saloons begins to undergo some changes. It is forbidden at last, almost openly, to entertain any desire for a complete return to the old regime of the three orders, although they persist in maintaining that, that was the perfection of all Governments. They declare that they will resign themselves to the charter, provided they are at liberty to deduce from it what consequences they please; and provided it excludes the men of the revolution, and of the Imperial Government, whom it confounds together, unless where they abjure the great social results obtained during the last 30 years.

This system is not new, as it has been a long time that of Mr. Chateaubriand and of the *Conservateur*. M. de Villele has the credit of it at present, because he has revised it; he is said to be a good deal consulted, and he

consents to believe that he is certainly destined to save France. They mention already several co-adjutors whom they reckon upon obtaining in due season.

Letters from Germany lead us to expect some distrust between Russia and Austria as to the degree of influence which each ought to exercise in the Germanic body, and even elsewhere. Letters from Hamburg describe your Cabinet as not altogether agreeing with Russia as to the means of preserving in the North, the respect due to treaties, and the mutual independence of each state.

It is asserted with the appearance of probability, that the discussions between Sweden and Denmark, and their possible influence on the freedom of the Baltic, are looked upon with a very different eye at London and at Petersburg.

Persons among you take great concern in our Ministry and its chances, so that you will allow us also to tell you, that we do not think your Ministry either very united, nor very certain of preserving its majority in the new Parliament, nor perfectly agreeing among themselves as to the policy to be followed with respect to America, or rather the Americas, since Spain has sold her Floridas. Our internal quarrels will occupy much less of the attention of your statesmen in so complex a situation.

We think, besides, that your transition from paper-money to cash-payments in gold and silver, whatever may be its period or gradations, cannot take place without a commotion, which will not have among you the violence of our season of assignats and mandates; but which, nevertheless, will have some of its characteristics, though considerably weakened. As soon as there shall be an obligation to fix the proportion between paper, gold, and silver, there will be established a real difference of value, however just may be the confidence in the intrinsic solidity of the Bank. Paper will lose what silver will gain, and that may go far, unless there be great skill and prudence.

Europe for three years appears to have taken no concern in our troubles, except to make a profit by them. We, in our turn, may be allowed to take part in her embarrassments, and if we act prudently, we shall be able to derive from them wherewithal to consolidate our institutions, and our internal well-being, while we maintain, externally an equal and impartial balance among all.

There will be no hesitation then to court and caress us; we shall only have to choose what friends we please, which will be exceedingly pleasant, since we have been a little restrained for some time past.

Paris.—The health of the King is so much improved, that it is urged, that the august ceremony should take place on the 25th of August. It will, it is said, be celebrated in the new church of Saint Genevieve. His Majesty has dined latterly with his family. He has recovered the use of his legs, and reckons upon going to pass a few weeks at St. Cloud about the middle of June. The five exiles whose recall was lately proposed, but postponed, appear to be.—Marshal Soult, General Grouchy, General Piré, M. Real, formerly Counsellor of State, and Colonel Millinet. It was their own petitions which did them temporary mischief, although two of them at least had the warm recommendation of the Duke of Angoulême, and the suffrage of ministers. The King, whose character and will were never decided, has made a point of shewing, that no influence controls him in the exercise of a right which the law of the 12th of January gives him exclusively. The discussion on the budget has been stormy, but there is no reason to apprehend, that the ministerial plan will not be adopted. The right side has taken very little part in these debates. Still it appears disposed to break through its system of silence, which has not succeeded so well as it expected; it conceived itself to be nearer the attainment of its object, and kept quiet in order to conceal its real weakness.

Facts have confirmed what I told you respecting the expedition to Cadix namely, that it will not sail at all; so say the last letters from Madrid, which announce, that the troops are not merely disembarked, but disarmed. Where in fact, could they have been landed, unless some arrangements had been made with Brazil, or without possession of Monte Video? Some persons conjecture, that the troops assembled at Cadix may receive orders to march against Portugal, as Spain might be willing to indemnify itself by occupying that territory; but it is probable that your Ministry would not suffer such a step. Your commerce is in a better condition under a Portuguese Regency at Lisbon than it would be under a Spanish Administration.

Nothing is determined at Berlin as to the constitution promised to the Prussians. The King and Prince Hardenberg will manifest great indecision on this subject. Two systems are under consideration, and pretty equally balanced—the Provincial State, and the Central Constitution. M. de Humboldt, who has just arrived at Frankfort the differences between Prussia and Bavaria, is on the eve of taking the department of the Interior, having at length accepted that office. Perhaps the presence of a man who enjoys great consideration in Germany will lead to some definite measure: he is an avowed partisan, though a moderate one of the ideas of the age.

The meetings talked of, for this summer at Carlsbad and at Toplitz have relation merely to the internal state of Germany. The Universities of that country, and the spirit which animates them, will fix the attention of several Governments, the evil which is apprehended is easily seen: but where is the hand strong enough and skilful enough to apply the remedy, when it will have to contend against several generations, who have already carried an irresistible influence into the different ramifications of the social system? Great cry will be made, and little effectual will be done.

Cantillon and Marinot, the persons accused of the attempt upon the life of the Duke of Wellington, had been acquitted. The Noble Duke's name, and character it appears, had been treated very ungraciously by the audience at the trial; a paragraph, however, had been put forth by the official Journal, which bears high testimony to his honour and integrity, and praises in the warmest language the proceedings of the Duke towards France and her interest during the very period which elapsed between the attempt to assassinate him, and the trial of the alleged assassin. His Grace may therefore take his choice between the deliberate opinions of an enlightened journalist, and the rude and vindictive feelings of a promiscuous assembly—feelings which do more credit to him who provoked them, than to those by whom they have been fostered. The conduct of the *Moniteur* is commendable, and we shall be happy to see respectable journals on both sides treat the two nations with that delicacy to which they are justly entitled.

It was stated in accounts from the north of Europe, that a positive requisition by the Great Powers, guaranties of the treaty of Kiel, that Charles XIV. should abdicate the Crown of Sweden; this statement, which is without foundation, appears to have arisen, from the refusal of Sweden to pay the Norwegian Debt; and in consequence of some sharp correspondence which had passed between the Emperor Alexander and the Swedish Monarch; Matters are still under discussion, and it was stated, that the Court of Stockholm would be regularly called upon to satisfy the demands of Denmark; in the mean time, Charles John had formed a Camp in Scania for the apparent purpose of intimidating the Danes.

Bernadotte.—We have to record this week a "Modest request of two absent" Legitimates.—There are strong rumours that Bernadotte has at last been plainly requested by the Emperor Alexander and the King of Prussia "to descend from his throne." The pretended ground of objection is supposed to be his non-performance of the stipulations respecting the debts of Norway, in the Treaty of Kiel; but this, as it has been justly observed, could at most only forfeit Norway, and not the Swedish throne, according to all the usages in such cases. If such a demand however has been made, the real ground of it is obvious. Bernadotte is an illegitimate prince, a Frenchman, and a republican conqueror.

Sandt.—Sandt the assassin of Kotzebue, is dead. In the Private Correspondence with the daily papers from Paris, there is the following good and unanswerable passage upon the anathemas pronounced against French Philosophy by those vindicators of Inquisitions and Infernal Machines, who profess to hold the assassination in such abhorrence.

"Letters worthy of credit from Germany," says the writer, "declare that Sandt had alone conceived the idea of the assassination of Kotzebue, and that, if he had imbibed dangerous principles in the secret societies, it was neither these principles nor his former associates that armed his hand, as was at first spread abroad. He was known to be a young man of austere manners, and religious even to enthusiasm. It is, therefore, dishonest in some journals, both of Paris and of London, to connect this horrible assassination with French doctrines, while at the same time they are unceasingly imputing to them impiety and atheism. They ought to choose between these imputations, and not to launch contradictory anathemas. If Sandt was religious, they ought not to ascribe his resolution to the principles of our philosophers, which they denominate atheistical: if Sandt was not religious, they absolve from all participation in his crime those secret societies, which they all agree are profoundly impressed with those mystical notions which inflame the heads of youth. This danger is not, at any rate, that of our schools, where the feelings are rather chilled than kindled."

Christiana, May 8.—Tuesday afternoon, between 12 and 1 o'clock, a dreadful fire broke out in the Timber Yards between the town of Christiana and the suburb of Waterland, by which the immense stock of baulks and timber, and also a rope work, with all the cordage and materials, were a prey to the flame. The fire threatened also the magazines of timber on the other side of the Agers Eio; several houses in the suburb of Waterland caught fire, others were pulled down to prevent the further proceeding of the flames and the town of Christiana itself was threatened on many sides; happily there was no wind, and the vessels lying in the river were towed out, that they might not serve to propagate the flames. The damage done is prodigious. It is calculated at 250,000l. sterling, far more than was caused by the fires at Dramman, Friderikshall and Dronthiem, because so vast a quantity of timber has been destroyed. On the 26th of last month, Rear Admiral Finner died at Dramman, in the 80th year of his age.

Naples, April 27.—The Sicilians seem not to be pleased with their new system of Government. Several regiments are to be embarked here for that island, where some insurrectionary movements have, it is said, taken place.

The fine spring weather promises a rich harvest; in which case, corn will become so cheap, that much land will lie fallow, because the labour of cultivating is hardly ever repaid.

Madrid.—An article from Madrid in the shape of a private letter dated May 5th, states, that Deputies from Buenos Ayres had reached that capital, to offer to Ferdinand VII. the submission of the Insurgent Provinces of Rio de la Plata, on condition, that they should have a national representation, should vote their own taxes, and should be placed on a footing of perfect equality with the mother country with respect to trade. These conditions, it is said, do not extend much beyond what those Colonies enjoyed in 1789. But there is another to which it is considered dangerous to accede. They demand that a Prince of the Blood be sent as Viceroy of Spanish America. Even were this request granted, it is thought that Buenos Ayres is too far from the centre of the Spanish possessions to be made the seat of such a Viceroyalty. Notwithstanding certain inevitable difficulties, adds the letter, the step taken by the Authorities of Buenos Ayres cannot fail to lead to a reconciliation.

Parliamentary Resolutions.

The following are given in an English Journal of the 20th of May, as the Resolutions to be submitted to the Lords on the Bank Restriction.

"That it is expedient further to continue the restriction upon each payments by the Bank for a time to be limited, in such manner, and such conditions, as shall be provided by Parliament with a view to ensure its final termination at the period so to be fixed.

That previously to the resumption of cash payments by the Bank, it is expedient, that the Bank should be required, at a time to be fixed by Parliament, to give in exchange for its notes gold duly assayed and stamped at his Majesty's Mint, (if demanded to an amount not less than a number of ounces to be limited,) valuing the same in such exchange at a price not exceeding 4l. 1s. per ounce.

That at the expiration of a further period, to be also fixed by Parliament, the Bank should be required to give in exchange for its notes gold so assayed and stamped, (if demanded to an amount of not less than a certain number of ounces to be limited,) valuing the same in such exchange at the Mint price,

That at some time between the two periods abovementioned, the Bank should be required to give in exchange for its notes gold so assayed and stamped, valuing the same at a price between 4l. 1s. and the Mint price; and that after the price at which gold shall be valued to such exchanges shall have been once lowered, it should not again be raised.

That after the period shall have arrived at which the Bank shall be required to give gold in exchange for its notes, at the Mint price, a further period to be fixed by Parliament should be allowed, and a certain notice given, before the Bank shall be required to pay its notes in cash.

That it is expedient that all laws which prohibit the melting or exportation of the gold or silver coin of this realm, and the exportation of gold or silver bullion made of such coin, should be repealed."

The subjoined are the Resolutions submitted in the House of Commons: These differ from those of the Lords by a clause proposing that, with a view to enable the Bank Directors to control their issues, Government shall repay to them a part of the public debt, amounting to 10,000,000l. "That this proposition should appear only in the Commons' resolutions, may perhaps have sprung by analogy from the exclusive right of the Commons to originate money bills. The 10,000,000l. however, are to be paid gradually."

"That it is expedient to continue the restriction on payments in cash by the Bank of England, beyond the time to which it is at present limited by law.

"That it is expedient that a definite period should be fixed for the termination of the restriction on cash payments; and that preparatory measures should be taken, with a view to facilitate and ensure, on the arrival of that period the payment of the promissory notes of the Bank of England in the legal coin of the realm.

"That in order to give to the Bank a greater control over the issues of their notes than they at present possess, provision ought to be made for the gradual repayment to the Bank of the sum of 10,000,000l. being part of the sum due to the Bank on account of advances made by them for the public service, and on account of the purchase of Exchequer bills under the authority of acts of the legislature.

"That it is expedient to provide by law, that from the 1st of February 1820, the Bank shall be liable to deliver on demand, gold of standard fineness, having been assayed and stamped at his Majesty's Mint, (a quantity of not less than 60 ounces being required,) in exchange for such an amount of notes of the Bank as shall be equal to the value of the gold so required, at the rate of 4l. 1s. per ounce.

"That from the 1st October 1820; the Bank shall be liable to deliver, on demand, gold of standard fineness, assayed and stamped as before mentioned, (a quantity of not less than 60 ounces being required,) in exchange for such an amount of notes as shall be equal to the value of the gold so required, at the rate of 3l. 19s. 6d. per ounce.

"That from the 1st May 1821, the Bank shall be liable to deliver on demand, gold of standard fineness, assayed and stamped as before mentioned (a quantity of not less than 60 ounces being required,) in exchange for such an amount of notes as shall be equal in value to the gold required at the rate of 3l. 17s. 10½d. per ounce.

"That the Bank may, at any period between the 1st February 1820, and the 1st May 1821, undertake to deliver gold of standard fineness, assayed and stamped as before mentioned, at any rate between the sums of 4l. 1s. per ounce, and 3l. 17s. 10½d. per ounce; but that such intermediate rate having been once fixed by the Bank, that rate shall not be subsequently increased.

"That from the 1st May 1823, the Bank shall pay its notes, on demand, in the legal coin of the realm.

"That it is expedient to repeal the laws prohibiting the melting and the exportation of the coin of the realm.—May 19, 1819."

The Bank.

(From the Morning Post of May 27.)

An account of all Distributions made by the Bank of England amongst the Proprietors of Bank Stock, whether by Money Payments. Transfer of 5l. per Cent. Annuities, or otherwise, under the heads of—Bonus, Increase of Dividend, and Increase of Capital; betwixt the 25th February, 1797, and 1st May, 1819, in addition to the ordinary Annual Dividend of 7l. per Cent. on the Capital Stock of that Corporation existing in 1797, including therein the whole Dividend paid since June, 1816, on their increased Capital; stating the period when such Distributions were made, and the Aggregate amount of the whole.

| | |
|--|------------|
| In June, 1799, 10 per Cent. Bonus in 5 per Cents. | |
| 1797.....on £11,642,400, is..... | £1,164,240 |
| May, 1801, 5 per Cent. Do. Navy 5 per Cents. | |
| on.....Do..... | 582,120 |
| Nov. 1802, 2½ per Cent. do. do. on Do..... | 291,060 |
| Oct. 1804, 5 per Cent. do. Cash on Do..... | 582,120 |
| Oct. 1805, 5 per Cent. do. do. on Do..... | 582,120 |
| Oct. 1806, 5 per Cent. do. do. on Do..... | 582,120 |
| From April, 1807, to April, 1819, both inclusive. | |
| Increase of Dividend, at the rate of 3l. per Cent. per Annum, on 11,642,400l. is 12½ years, or 37l. 10s. .. | 4,365,900 |
| In June, 1816, Increase of Capital, at 25l. per Cent. is.. | 2,910,600 |
| From Octo-ber, 1816, to April 1819, both inclusive. | |
| Dividend at the rate of 10l. per Cent. per Annum, on 2,910,600 In-creased Capital, is 3 years' Dividends, or 30l. per Cent. on 2,910,600l. is... | 873,180 |

Aggregate Amount of the whole.....£11,933,460

Annual Dividend payable on Bank Stock, in 1797, on a Capital of 11,642,400l. at the rate of 7l. per cent. per annum..... £814,968

Annual Dividend payable since June, 1816, and at present on a Capital of 14,553,000l. at the rate of 10l. per cent. per annum..... 1,455,300

THE EQUITABLE PAYMENT OF THE DEBTS OF A STATE.

A few years ago a Portuguese Nobleman, a large Proprietor of the Colony of the Brazils, consigned to London a large quantity of gold, which he sold here for Bank notes, at 5l. 4s. an oz. on an average.

These Bank notes he laid out in the payment on a loan, contracted for at 100l. 3 per Cent. Stock, for 47l., receiving the constant and punctual usurious interest of 6 per cent, for 94l. that is at 4l. an oz.; one ounce and half per annum for the loan or deposit of 18 oz. or more than 8 per cent. per annum. This Nobleman lately wrote to his respectable Agent in the City, that though this interest was very liberal, yet he was content to take 80l. for the 47l. he had advanced, and desired his 3 per Cent Stock to be sold. But his judicious friend, foreseeing what was soon to happen, would not follow such instructions, but advised him to continue to receive this interest, to purchase gold with it, and to hold the Stock till paid off at par, in gold sovereigns or guineas, at 3l. 17s. 10½d. by which proceeding the Portuguese Gentleman will receive back some day about 27 oz. of standard gold, for the 9 oz. which he lent, or have his original capital returned threefold, and an interest on his advance until that time of more than 8 per cent.!! This is certainly keeping faith with the creditor nobly, but it is borrowing money on a very wretched plan. This is however the plan in which it is now to be statuted, that the public foreign creditor, and our own fund-holders are to be repaid for all the advances in loans which have been made during the last war: 94l. to receive an interest of 8 per cent. or 18 oz. of gold to receive an interest of 6 per cent., or 18 oz. of gold to receive a yearly dividend of 1½ oz. which is about 8 per cent. of interest until paid off, and then to be paid in 54 oz. of standard gold. This is certainly a "new way of paying old debts," which has not been practised since the days of SOLOMON, nor was foreseen by him, nor was such a manner permitted by MOSES; but it is now about to be statuted by the wisdom of Messrs. PITT, PEEL, and RICARDO. —Ainsi soit il!

This is the correct statement of a fact of practice, and the exact process of our funding system, and law of legal cash payments. The creditor of 500 millions Sterling advanced is to receive in a gold payment two and three for one, of all the ounces of gold which he lent.

Tit for tat, blood for blood, gold for gold, have been considered fair returns, but a constant usury of interest, and a double or treble return of the loan borrowed, are novelties in the equity and practice of debtor and creditor.

From the London Gazette, Saturday, May 22.

DOWNING-STREET, MAY 21, 1819.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, has been graciously pleased, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, to appoint C. Maxwell, Esq. to be Governor of the Island of St. Christopher, and also Sir S. F. Whittingham, Knt. to be Governor of the Island of Dominica.

(From the Morning Post of May 27.)

*Ac veluti magna in populo cum saepe co-orta est
Seditio, savitque animis ignobile vulgus;
Tum pietate gravem ac meritis si fortè virum quem
Conspexere; silent; arectisque auribus astant:
Ille regit dictis animos, et pectora mulcet.*

The Bystander at the House of Commons last night must have forgotten his Virgil to whom the above lines did not occur when Mr. Canning, by the most timely, tasteful, courageous interposition, that perhaps ever took place in Parliament, and truly mirrored in the above beautiful quotation, rescued that House from its worst enemies, that portion of itself, which degraded it more than all the labours of all the Jacobins in England united—that portion of itself, neither still nor small, which transfers to St. Stephen's the manners of Covent-garden, leaving out nothing of hustings' discipline except the mud and the 'sweet aspersion' of the spittle.

Glorious spirit! which, while all the wisdom, all the genius, all the high character, all the renown, of the assembled Commons of England rivalled each other in virtuous oblivion of every party feeling upon a subject too vital for any other than patriot sensation, reeled at midnight to the Senate; and, well 'convinced by wine and wassel,' not the argument, by coughing and by hickuping question, question, question, displayed, indeed, the genuine dignity of legislation. And what atrocious libeller of privilege disputes with M. Ps. the sacred rights of noise and nonsense; of snuffing and sneezing; of smoking and sleeping and snoring? 'Speaking's a bore.' The question—the question!

Damn action and discourse;
Back fly the scenes, and enter foot and horse.

What joys can Bacchus teach men,
His roaring bucks when drunk;
Come, break the lamps, beat watchmen;
Then stagger to some punch.

'Huzza for the honour of Parliament, damn me.'

May 26.

Syrian Archbishop.

INTELLECTUAL AND MORAL IMPROVEMENT OF SYRIA.

At a Meeting held on the 11th of March, 1819, at Mr. Hatchard's, Piccadilly.

Sir ALEXANDER JOHNSTON, Knt. F. R. S. (late Chief Justice of Ceylon), in the Chair.

The following Resolutions were passed unanimously:—

1. That it appears to this Meeting, from various testimonies submitted to it, that the SYRIAN ARCHBISHOP of JERUSALEM, the Most Rev. GREGORY PETER GIARVE, now in London, has visited this Country for a purpose which lays a forcible claim to the support of benevolent persons; that purpose being, the Intellectual and Moral Improvement of a numerous body of people.

2. That this Meeting gives full credit to the following Statement, which has been laid before it, of the condition of the said people:—

"There are, in Syria and the neighbouring countries, about one million of persons who use the Carshun language; that is, they speak Arabic; but in writing it, they employ the Syriac character. These people have very few books among them; there being printing-presses for the Carshun nowhere but at Rome and at St. Anthonio, near Tripoli, in Syria, and but a small number of books printed at these presses. The main body of the people are, in consequence, in a lamentable state of ignorance; and their poverty is so great, that they have not the means of relieving themselves."

3. That the state and condition of the People for whom this benefit of Instruction is sought, are peculiarly worthy of commiseration and relief; as they inhabit, under circumstances of much difficulty and oppression, those very Countries from which our own highest advantages were originally derived.

4. That the Syrian Archbishop of Jerusalem having proposed to form a Printing Establishment at the place of his residence on Mount Lebanon, for the purpose of printing, in Carshun, Elementary and other Books, with the Holy Scriptures, in order to promote Education and Christian Knowledge wherever the Carshun is used, this Meeting cordially approves the said design.

5. That a Fund be now opened, for enabling the Archbishop to effect the objects proposed, and for promoting the intellectual and moral improvement of Syria; and that the application of the said Fund be entrusted to the charge of a Committee.

(Signed) ALEXANDER JOHNSTON, Chairman.

A Committee was appointed to carry the above Resolutions into effect; Samuel Hoare, Esq. jun. has undertaken the office of Treasurer; and the Rev. Samuel Lee, M. A. Professor of Arabic in the University of Cambridge, will carry on, as Secretary, the future Correspondence with Syria.

BENEFACTIONS.

| | | | |
|---|------|---------------------------------|------|
| Hon. and Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Gloucester | £7 0 | Hon. and Rev. G. T. Noel | £5 5 |
| Sir Alexander Johnston | 5 0 | Rev. Joseph Pratt | 5 0 |
| Richard Barry, Esq. | 5 0 | Rev. James Towers | 5 0 |
| Rev. Edward Bickersteth | 5 0 | Hon. George Vernon | 5 0 |
| John Corrie, Esq. | 5 0 | Rev. Lewis Way | 5 0 |
| Charles Elliott, Esq. | 5 0 | John Broadley Wilson, Esq. | 20 0 |
| W. M. Forster, Esq. | 5 0 | Rev. Daniel Wilson | 5 0 |
| Friend, by Ditto | 5 0 | Rev. Basil Wood | 5 0 |
| W. A. Garratt, Esq. | 5 0 | Henry Walker, Esq. | 20 0 |
| W. B. Hudson, Esq. | 5 0 | George Wolff, Esq. | 5 0 |
| John Mortlock, Esq. | 5 0 | J. G. Lockett, Esq. | 5 0 |
| | | Thomas Bainbridge, Esq. | 5 0 |

Benefactions will be received by Messrs. Hoare, Barnetts, Hoare and Co. No. 62, Lombard Street, Drummond, Charing-cross; Mr. Hatchard, Piccadilly; and Mr. L. B. Seeley, Fleet-street.

Second Meeting.

On the 13th of April 1819, the subscribers to the fund for assisting the Syrian Archbishop of Jerusalem in promoting Christian knowledge in Syria, by forming a printing establishment on Mount Lebanon, met at the Freemasons' Tavern, to the number of 70 or 80 individuals; among whom were recognized Lord Teignmouth, Messrs. Wilberforce, Butterworth, Leight, &c. and the Revs. Josiah Pratt, John Owen, Samuel Lee, and many other respectable members of the community.

About half past 1 o'clock Lord TEIGNMOUTH was called to the chair, who briefly explained to the meeting the reasons for which it had been convened. His Lordship observed, that as it was their bounden duty to propagate the Christian religion in every country under heaven, they ought not to neglect so glorious an opportunity of performing this duty in the extensive regions of Asia as was now afforded them by the arrival of the Archbishop of Jerusalem in this favoured country. That venerable personage was not less distinguished by his learning and his piety than he was by the zeal with which he endeavoured to promote the cause of Christian knowledge. He had travelled from Syria with no other view than that of procuring assistance to enable him to disseminate such religious instruction among the flock over which he presided, as was calculated to make them understand more fully the sublime truths and the grand moral lessons which are inculcated by genuine Christianity. He had applied at Rome, and he had applied at Paris, for this assistance; but neither Rome nor Paris were possessed of sufficient generosity to afford it. He (Lord Teignmouth) was almost glad to say, that they had not, inasmuch as it gave this country the opportunity of performing those services to their Asiatic brethren which both the other countries to whom the Archbishop had applied had refused to render. The Archbishop was now about to return to the regions which he had left with such beneficent intentions, and it was therefore thought proper by those who had subscribed their funds to aid the religious purposes which he had so nobly attempted to effect, that he should receive a valedictory salutation at their hands before he quitted the shores of England. He (Lord Teignmouth) would not intrude longer on the attention of the company, but would leave the further exposition of the views of the subscribers to those who had already taken so active a share in this business.

The Rev. JOSIAH PRATT then rose, and gave a concise description of the objects which had led the Archbishop to leave his own country, and the success which he had experienced in his endeavours to secure them. From this account it appeared, that the Archbishop, who professes the Roman Catholic religion, had left his convent on Mount Lebanon, (surnamed Convento della Maria Liberatrice) from a conviction that without further assistance than the funds of his convent were able to supply, it would be impossible to administer that spiritual instruction to the Christians of Palestine and Syria which their wants so imperiously demanded. In his endeavours to obtain that assistance, he had come to England, and had already, as he (Mr. Pratt) was glad to inform the meeting, seen upwards of 430l. subscribed in furtherance of his disinterested project. Out of this sum, 100l. had that morning been given to him for his own private uses—a gift, which he (Mr. Pratt) trusted the meeting would sanction with their approbation, especially as the venerable individual in question must have incurred many extraordinary expenses in the course of his long and tedious wanderings. He (Mr. Pratt) was also happy to inform them, that a gentleman of the name of Climer had presented the Archbishop with one of his Columbian printing presses—a present, which as might be seen from a prospectus which he held in his hand, was equivalent at least to 100 guineas. This present had excited the utmost gratitude in the mind of the Archbishop, and could not fail to excite strong feelings of admiration in the mind of every individual who heard of the circumstance. He, perhaps, ought to state to them, that the venerable character whom they were now assembled to meet, had come to this country without any letters of recommendation to any individual in it, and even without any testimonials to prove, that he was the character which he represented himself to be. From what he had heard from others, and from what he had himself seen, no doubt existed in his (Mr. Pratt's) breast, that the individual, in whose behalf so many of them had so nobly exerted themselves, was a pious, a virtuous, and a learned man, and anxious to promote to the best of his abilities that cause into which he had entered so ardently and zealously. He had little hesitation also in adding, that he

believed him to be Archbishop of Jerusalem; and therefore, from the rank and dignity which he possessed in his own country, a man admirably adapted to circulate the Holy Scriptures amid the believers and unbelievers of Asia. He was indeed a Catholic; but he was glad to say a Catholic of such a description as would not object to the free circulation of the Bible among all ranks and classes within his jurisdiction. It had once been proposed, that the Catholics should join them in the subscriptions into which they had entered; and that the manner in which those subscriptions were to be applied should be submitted to a Committee formed of members of both religions. This proposal had, however, been laid aside, to prevent any religious dissensions; and the Catholics were now entering into subscriptions, over which they were to have the sole control themselves. It had, indeed, been said, that the Archbishop had privately communicated to some of his friends, his intention of not allowing the free promulgation of the Holy Bible; but he believed that he could refer to an honourable gentleman [Mr. Lee] for a contradiction of that rumour. With regard to the other qualities of the Archbishop, he should leave his two friends, Mr. Owen and Mr. Lee, to explain them. They would tell the meeting how excellent the conduct of this individual had been whilst in their company, and how extensive were the stores of oriental literature which he had displayed to them during the visit which they had made together to the University of Oxford. For his own part, he should conclude by moving for the appointment of a committee, to decide on what would be the most advisable method of disposing of the money, and to deliberate upon the means which ought to be adopted to maintain a correspondence in future with the Archbishop.

The Rev. Mr. OWEN then expressed his conviction of the virtue and integrity of the Archbishop, a conviction which was formed from an intimate acquaintance with him for some time past, and from certain traits of character which had escaped from him (the Archbishop) unintentionally and almost unobservedly during the journey which they had taken together. He could not help saying, that his arrival in this country was not merely opportune, but was even providential. It had opened to us a means of communicating with our Christian brethren in Asia, and a means of instilling into the Mahomedan inhabitants of that country a knowledge of that light and life which leadeth to salvation. It had also settled a controversy which had existed between several learned men in this country, regarding the language into which it would be most expedient to translate the Scriptures, for the use and benefit of the Asiatic nations. Dr. Macbride had proposed one language and Mr. Lee another; but the Archbishop had advised the use of the Cushman, (Arabic, we believe, in Syrian characters) as most likely to be generally understood. The reverend gentleman, after entering into some details regarding the manner in which the Archbishop had come to England, and the dejection of mind under which he laboured on his first arrival, from the refusal of assistance which he had experienced in other countries, descended at some length upon his merits as an oriental scholar, and stated, that it was such as fully convinced him, that he (the Archbishop) must have given up a great portion of his life to those studies, which could have been of little use to him in Syria, had he not been occupied in the affairs of religion. He was well aware, that the Archbishop belonged to the Church of Rome; but though he held communion with it, he disclaimed all subjection to it. Mr. Owen then entered into an account of the religious constitution of the Syrian Christian Church, and after some other observations on the necessity of affording every assistance within their power to the Archbishop, concluded his speech with predicting great advantages from the establishment of a constant channel of communication between the Christian churches of Europe and Asia.

The Rev. Mr. LEE (Professor of Arabic in the University of Cambridge) bore testimony to the astonishing acquaintance which the Archbishop had displayed with the stores of Oriental literature preserved in the Bodleian Library at Oxford; and argued, that such extensive knowledge was *prima facie* proof, that the Archbishop actually was the person whom he stated himself to be.

Mr. OWEN then proposed, that the Archbishop should be invited to meet the assembly. He hoped that the meeting would shew as few marks of curiosity as possible on the entrance of the Archbishop as the Archbishop had objected to the presence of females at this meeting, from a dread that he should be treated as a mere spectacle. The Archbishop had also expressed a wish that "no mention should be made of the sums which were presented to him, because," says he, "if the Grand Turk knew that I had brought more than 2s. with me from England, he would certainly massacre me on my return."

Mr. OWEN then left the room, but shortly afterwards returned accompanied by the Archbishop. On arriving at the chairman's seat, he bowed first to the chair, and then to the company, and seemed to feel some small degree of alarm and agitation. He was however encouraged by Mr. Wilberforce and Mr. OWEN, and quickly regained his presence of mind, which for a moment appeared to have deserted him. He was dressed in the oriental costume, his head was covered with a blue turban, and his body with a long and loose robe of dark blue cloth or serge. He seemed to be about 40 years of age, though his beard, which is long and bushy, may probably make him look older than he really is. In spite however of all the peculiarities of his dress and manners, his appearance evidently made a favourable impression upon all the spectators in the room.

After a short pause Lord TEIGNMOUTH, the chairman, informed him (and Mr. Owen conveyed the information to him in Italian) that assistance would gladly be afforded to him by the individuals whom he saw assembled before him. A smile of satisfaction immediately played upon his countenance.

nance, and he desired Mr. Owen to acquaint the company that, as he could not address them in English, he would address them in another language, which he trusted that Mr. Owen would have the goodness to interpret them. Mr. Owen acquiescing in this proposal himself, and informing him that it was highly acceptable to the Meeting, the Archbishop uttered a few sentences in Italian, expressive of the gratitude which he felt for the favours which they had bestowed upon him, and of the expectations which he enjoyed of great good arising from them to the cause of Christian virtue and piety. After this speech, which was received with considerable applause, a Committee was appointed for the purpose mentioned by the Rev. Josiah Pratt, and a liberal subscription, as we were told, was immediately made to aid the design for which the Meeting had been desired to assemble.

Mr. Seton on Mr. Wilkinson's Case.

In considering the very peculiar predicament of Mr. Wilkinson and the claims founded upon it, it appears to me to be desirable to endeavour to lay down a fair and just principle of adjustment, and then to apply it to the case.

I ought, in explanation of my general view of it, to promise in the outset, that with every desire to consider and discuss the claim liberally, still I cannot bring myself to regard it in the light of a legal claim, in the strict and severe sense of the term. When Mr. Wilkinson, in the year 1812, entered into engagements for insuring a supply of saltpetre, he could not be aware, that Government had a right to revive that monopoly of the article which had been but just abolished; from which it follows, or seems to me to follow, that in forming a quinquennial contract for the supply in question, he took that step "*suo periculo*" without any guarantee on the part of Government, and subject of course, to all the risks, and to all the losses incident to an eventual change of system—whether by the re-establishment of the monopoly—whether by subjecting the article to the payment of duties—whether by the prohibition to export. It is therefore that I am of opinion, that the claim cannot justly be considered to be of a legal nature.

But while I entertain that sentiment, I cannot on the other hand but admit, that as the recent abolition of the monopoly of saltpetre, by a legal enactment, rendered it in the highest degree improbable that it would be immediately re-established, and as it was immediately re-established to the obvious ruin of the speculation entered into during the interval by Mr. Wilkinson, that gentleman has every right, short of legal right, to expect that his claim will be considered as a case standing upon grounds peculiarly strong, and that it will be decided on principles of the greatest liberality, more especially when it is considered, that the decision is to be passed by the very party which benefited by his loss.

This, as a principle, appears indeed to have been admitted from the first, hence the numerous references which have taken place on the subject, and hence the appointment of a committee of intelligent and experienced gentlemen for the purpose of applying that principle. Had any doubt been entertained from the first of Mr. Wilkinson's claim being entitled to consideration, it would, I conclude, have been rejected and dismissed *in limine*. In that case, the measure of resorting to the opinion of a committee composed of men of business, would have been altogether nugatory.

In the present stage therefore, of the question, the quantum, of degree of compensation to which, equity and liberality, Mr. Wilkinson may appear to be entitled, seems to me to be the point for consideration.

In turning this point in my mind, I have found little difficulty or hesitation in deciding, as far as my humble but deliberate judgement goes, that Mr. Wilkinson is not only entitled (though, as observed, not legally) to compensation for all actual loss sustained by him, but also to a certain degree, on account of the privation of those commercial profits, which, but for the revival of the monopoly, he would have enjoyed, and which, by the direct operation of that revival, Government, as a commercial body; has reaped the fruits of.

In this there is nothing at variance with what I have declared above, as to Mr. Wilkinson's liability, in a legal point of view to suffer from the operation of measures, which however prejudicial to his interests as an individual, Government, in its paramount capacity of ruler of the country, had a right to adopt. I now examine the case as a case of equity, and I examine the conduct of Government, or rather I consider the line of conduct which, in my humble opinion, it behoves Government to pursue, not with mere reference to its power, but, with advertence to what, in sound policy and in true considerate liberality, it ought to do.

In fact, if it be admitted, and it can hardly, I think, be denied, that in sound policy, and with an enlightened, enlarged, and statesmanlike view to its own interests, every Government ought carefully to abstain from every public act which has an obvious and direct tendency to destroy, or even to weaken, the confidence of its subjects, on its wisdom, justice, and consistency, it seems to follow, that in the event of a Government sanctioning, suddenly and unexpectedly, the adoption of a measure, which converts an article of free trade into a monopoly, it is bound in policy (independently of considerations of equity) to grant relief to those who may suffer from the operation of such measures; since a contrary line of conduct on the part of a Government in that predicament, must have the effect of

diminishing the confidence of the community. For what merchant will venture to engage, to any extent, in commercial adventure, if he be exposed, by the operation of a measure which he has no reason to expect, to see the legitimate profits of his speculation pass from his hands into those of the very Government from which he had a right to look for good faith and protection?

I venture to affirm, that, when I consider this as likely to prove destructive of public confidence, and to paralyse exertion on the part of the community, I do not advance an extreme or an exaggerated position; and if it be admitted, that on grounds of general policy, the reasoning is just, how strong and immediate must its applicability be, to a case like the present, in which an individual has evidently been a severe sufferer by an act of Government, the object of which was NOT POLITICAL advantage, but PECUNIARY profit, NOT the promotion of the public interest of the State; but the securing a commercial gain to the Government in its capacity of a trading Company in quest of money by means of traffic!

Such are the grounds on which it is clear to my conviction, that in sound policy as well as in equity, this Government ought to consider itself bound to make a liberal compensation to Mr. Wilkinson, even supposing it not to have drawn any immediate profit from the operation of the measure which caused his loss. But when it is considered, besides, that in proportion as he lost, the very Government now about to decide on his claim, GAINED, it appears to me, that that Government, on principles of equity, is doubly bound to compensate, or in other words, to transfer to him, some part of the gain which, in its commercial capacity, it acquired at his expense.

So sensible indeed was Government of the peculiar hardship of Mr. Wilkinson's case, that it came to the determination, at once just and liberal of respecting such engagements as that gentleman might *bona fide* have entered into, previous to the revival of the monopoly of saltpetre in the year 1812, and could Mr. Wilkinson have rendered that considerate indulgence efficient and available, he would not now be in the distressing predicament of suing for relief.

The circumstances which prevented him from reaping the advantage of that measure, have been so frequently adverted to, in the course of the proceedings, that it were needless now to refer to them in detail; suffice it to say, that they were beyond his control and that he was not the victim of his own neglect.

The committee has taken a clear view of the several principles, according to which the amount of compensation due to Mr. Wilkinson may be estimated. The most moderate sum to which it considers him to be fairly entitled to, on account of the two first years of his engagement, is 180,000 rupees, with interest, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.

Assuming that the calculations of the Committee are just, and entirely concurring, as I do in the fairness of its principles, and in the justness of its reasoning, I am of opinion with the committee, that Mr. Wilkinson is entitled to a compensation of 180,000 rupees, with interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, on account of the losses sustained by him during the two first years of his contract.

On a superficial view of the case, the magnitude of the sum may startle, but we ought to consider, that that very magnitude serves to shew the magnitude of the pecuniary gain which the Government, or to speak more properly, which the Company derived from stepping into Mr. Wilkinson's place in consequence of the revival of the monopoly, is as clearly proved (to my conviction, at least) by the Committee in the 12th paragraph of its letter.

The committee further proceeds to consider the compensations due to Mr. Wilkinson for the losses sustained by him during the three years of his engagement, and on grounds stated in the 17th paragraph of its letter, deems him entitled to receive from Government, the amount which he would have recovered from the contractors as a penalty for breach of engagement, viz 20,000 rupees per annum thus excluding from the calculation, all supposed profit which might have accrued to Mr. Wilkinson had the trade in saltpetre been suffered to continue open. I admit with the committee, that supposing Mr. Wilkinson to be entitled to compensation on account of those three years, it has assumed the very lowest scale by which the quantum could be estimated; and were I as an individual, standing in the same relation towards Mr. Wilkinson in which the Company is now placed with respect to him, I might, as a gentleman, be disposed to admit the claim. But acting as I do in the capacity of steward for others, I hardly consider myself warranted to follow that impulse. The ground on which I principally hesitate is this: though I admit, that during the two first years circumstances might render it impracticable for Mr. Wilkinson to divert his attention and his capital to some other channel, and to speculate in a different quarter, that consideration cannot be held (I think) to apply to the latter years of the period in question, and I am therefore not prepared to concur in that respect with the Committee; yet I must add, that it is not without a considerable degree of diffidence and hesitation that I dissent from the suggestion, the unanimous suggestion, of so many ably, honorable, intelligent, and experienced gentlemen, who have carefully considered the subject, and can have no possible interest in the result. Under this impression, it is gratifying to me to reflect, that should my view of the case be too narrow, the misconception will be corrected by the liberality of those with whom I have the honour to be associated, or by the authorities in Europe.

(Signed) ARCHD. SETON.